



Grants Pass Department of Public Safety

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MEDIA RELEASE



Nature: Summer Time Outdoor Safety PSA

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Take Special Precautions to Ensure Outdoor Areas Are Safe

As families move outdoors to enjoy nice weather this summer, special precautions should be taken to ensure outdoor areas are safe from potential hazards. Swimming pools, barbecue grills, gardening tools, fertilizers, and lawn toys all pose risks to children and adults alike.

- Practice constant, adult supervision around any body of water, including pools and spas. Nationally, drowning is a leading cause of death to children under five.
- When swimming in rivers and lakes, make sure everyone knows how to swim and children are wearing approved life safety vests.
- If you're considering a swimming pool purchase, contact your local Building Department first to determine exactly what permits are needed and what requirements you must follow.
- In-ground and above-ground pools, including inflatable pools holding more than 24 inches of water, must be surrounded by a fence or other barrier at least four feet high. Any gates in the fence must be self-closing and self-latching.
- Reserve a spot on a wall or fence near the pool for lifesaving devices, including a portable or mobile telephone.
- Steps and ladders for above-ground pools should be secured or removed when the pool is not in use.

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- Use a cover for the pool when it is not in use.
- Make sure drain covers are properly fitted and have vacuum suction releases to prevent being trapped under water.
- Consider installing a pool alarm that can alert if someone enters the pool.
- Spa water temperatures should be set to 104 degrees Fahrenheit or lower to avoid elevated body temperature, which could lead to drowsiness, unconsciousness, heat stroke, or death.
- Keep pool and spa chemicals out of sight and secured.
- Designate the grilling area as a "No Play Zone" and keep kids and pets well away until grill equipment is completely cool.
- Check propane cylinder hoses for leaks before use.
- Do not move hot grills.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.
- Don't leave toys, garden tools and equipment in the yard.
- Keep fertilizers and pesticides out of sight of children and in a secure location
- Keep fuel cans tightly capped, secured and stored away from ignition sources.
- Keep steps, sidewalks and patios in good repair.
- Check all swings, slides, playhouses and other structures for sharp objects, rusty metal pieces, breaks or weakened support pieces.

Your Grants Pass Department of Public Safety wants you to have a fun and safe summer. Please implement these outdoor safety tips into your summertime routine. If you have any questions or would like more information about outdoor safety, fire safety or safety in general, please do not hesitate to call the Fire Prevention Office at 541-450-6200.